

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 81

RESOLUTION CHAPTER 44

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 81—Relative to Asthma Awareness Month.

[Filed with Secretary of State April 28, 2006.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SCR 81, Alquist. Asthma Awareness Month.

This measure would designate the month of May 2006 as Asthma Awareness Month in order to increase awareness and understanding about asthma and educate those with the disease on the treatments available and the methods of preventing attacks.

WHEREAS, Over two million Californians suffer from asthma, and the illness is responsible for approximately 40,000 hospitalizations and 600 deaths annually in California; and

WHEREAS, An estimated 11.9 percent of Californians, or 3.9 million adults and children, have been diagnosed with asthma; and

WHEREAS, Asthma disproportionately affects children and young adults and, in California, its prevalence is highest among children who are 12 to 17 years of age; and

WHEREAS, The self-reported lifetime occurrence of asthma has increased 66 percent in the last 20 years in California; and

WHEREAS, Women experience asthma at a much higher rate than men, African-Americans in California are three times more likely than Caucasians to be hospitalized due to asthma, and rates of hospitalization due to asthma among Hispanic and Asian children in California have been increasing; and

WHEREAS, The effects of asthma include missed school and work days, disruption of sleep and daily activities, emergency medical visits for asthma exacerbation, and even death; and

WHEREAS, The direct and indirect costs of asthma in California were estimated to be \$1.27 billion in 1998, with hospitalizations representing the largest direct medical expense related to asthma in 2000 and the average cost per hospitalization equaling \$13,000; and

WHEREAS, Because the majority of hospitalizations from asthma are thought to be preventable, the portion of the \$1.27 billion in total costs that is associated with these hospitalizations is likely to be preventable as well; and

WHEREAS, It is important that every person with asthma be diagnosed, receive appropriate treatment, learn how to manage his or her asthma, and

reduce exposure to environmental factors that make his or her asthma worse; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly thereof concurring, That the Legislature hereby designates the month of May 2006 as Asthma Awareness Month in order to increase awareness and understanding about asthma and educate those with the disease on the treatments available and the methods of preventing attacks; and be it further

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.